Approved For Release 2004/03/15 : CIA-RDP80M00165A002400080002-

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Date: 31 August 1977

TO: The Director

FROM: [redacted]

SUBJECT: Response to UN Association Study Calling for Intelligence Support in Natural Disasters

REMARKS:

A response to a study calling for intel support in natural disasters is offered for your signature. At the same time, you are asked to endorse DDI's making a study of how we can respond and reporting back to you with recommendations.

Also attached (At TAB 3) is a corollary memo from NPIC's John Hicks stimulated by the same report in which he proposes U.S. initiative in helping the UN establish an air reconnaissance capability. He suggests you raise the topic with State. You may wish to do this in a talk with Vance, or to send or durnish him a memo on this topic. The Hicks proposal could be cranked into DDI's study and be included as an alternative in this report to you.

It is recommended that you sign the letter to Ratner; authorize the DDI study, and ask them to include Hicks' proposal as an alternati ve with pros and cons.

ACTION

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SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM

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OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
1	Acting DDCI	29 AUG 1977	
2		29 AUG 1977	
3	DCI Rec'd 29 Aug	1 SEP 1977	BJ/dmg
4			
5			
6			

	ACTION		DIRECT REPLY		PREPARE REPLY
	APPROVAL		DISPATCH		RECOMMENDATION
	COMMENT		FILE		RETURN
	CONCURRENCE		INFORMATION		SIGNATURE

Remarks:

- 77-2160 attached

I have added Attachment 3, Proposing a U.S. Initiative to Establish a United Nations Aerial Reconnaissance Survey Capability to Paul Walsh's endorsed memorandum on Intelligence support to Natural Disaster Relief since Hick's memo adds more information to the recommendation outlined in para 4 of Walsh's memo to you.

B. C. Evans

FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER

FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.	DATE
Executive Secretary	25 Aug 77

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FORM NO. 237 Use previous editions

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Approved For Release 2004/03/15 : CIA-RDP80M00165A002400080002-9

The Director
Central Intelligence Agency

Washington, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry
77-5400/A

X Ref
77-2160

ATTACHMENT 1

1 September 1977

Mr. Robert M. Ratner
United Nations Association
of the United States of America
300 East 42nd Street
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Ratner:

Thank you for calling my attention to the report of your Policy Studies Panel on International Disaster Relief. It is compelling in its humanitarian objectives and explicit in its recommendations.

I have several comments with respect to those recommendations in the report which call for increased application of technology, particularly information derived from reconnaissance systems, to natural disaster research. The U-2 photographs and photo interpretation assistance provided by the US Government to Guatemala after the earthquake of early 1976 (and cited in your report) are good examples of what can be done in support of disaster analysis with advanced techniques originally developed for intelligence purposes. This type of cooperative effort will be continued in future crises whenever it appears to be feasible.

The CIA in recent years has devoted an increased analytical effort to anticipation and assessment of natural hazards and disasters. Some of the Agency's longer-term work on climatic change and on its possible effects has already been well-publicized. Research on the more immediate problems, when it is based on highly-classified sources, will in most instances continue to be accessible only to appropriately cleared individuals, as you mention in your report. Rest assured that I will make every effort to see that any research of this type -- classified or unclassified -- gets into the hands of the appropriate US officials on a timely basis.

(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE O/DCI/alpha)

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The Director
Central Intelligence Agency

ODCI/alpha 2 Sep 77 9

Executive Registry
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ATTACHMENT 1

Washington, D.C. 20505

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(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE ODCI/alpha

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Again, I thank you for your report, and will give thoughtful consideration to those segments dealing with more intensive use of the military and intelligence technology to support commitments of the US Government in response to natural disasters.

Yours sincerely,

STANSFIELD TURNER

25

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77-5400/1

22 AUG 1977

DDI # 2764-77/1

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Paul V. Walsh
Acting Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Intelligence Support to Natural Disaster Relief

1. Actions Requested:

a. That you approve and sign the proposed letter to Mr. Robert M. Ratner, Acting President, United Nations Association of the United States of America, which is appended as Attachment 1.

b. That you approve the recommendation in paragraph 4 below.

2. Background: You recently received a letter and a report on International Disaster Relief from Mr. Ratner (both letter and report are appended as Attachment 2). Mr. Ratner requested your comments on the report and there are several items in it which warrant your attention.

a. The principal one is a recommendation (on page 69 of the report) that the military and security organizations in countries which have advanced surveillance and communications systems examine the means by which the information developed by these systems, relevant to disaster preparedness, disaster early warning, and disaster damage assessment, might be made available to the stricken countries or to the UN so that appropriate action could be expedited. The Panel suggested that this sharing of information could be accomplished by giving US Ambassadors access to relevant classified information, or by passing declassified information and products from classified systems to the UN or to the disaster-stricken countries.

Comment: CIA and NPIC already have a substantial capability to monitor and evaluate natural disaster situations. Much of this has been done within the framework of intelligence needs -- e.g., assessing damage and political/economic implications of the Chinese earthquake -- rather than from the standpoint

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of support to relief efforts. An exception was the NPIC/AID operation (cited but not identified as NPIC in the attached report of the UN Association of the US) supplying high-resolution U-2 photography and an experienced photo interpreter to Guatemala within days of the February 1976 earthquake.

An NPIC unit is already tasked with exploitation of imagery materials for quick-response readout of obvious damage from natural hazards such as earthquakes or floods. The Office of Geographic and Cartographic Research in the DDI has also done some work of this type exploiting photography and other sources and has initiated contacts with AID to explore their needs for natural-disaster intelligence. OER has evaluated the economic impact of natural disasters.

b. Another item in the report is the suggestion (page 8) that "Certain of the operators in these military and security organizations could receive further training in disaster preparedness, early warning and damage assessment."

Comment: We are already giving some attention to development of skills along these lines through on-the-job effort, and plan to have a few of our people attend special workshops on natural disasters at the University of Colorado.

c. The report also recommends (page 66) that the US Government, in particular AID, "consider the provision of high-altitude reconnaissance planes and the facilities for processing the film used by such planes, as part of an expanded program of assistance to national and/or regional disaster preparedness."

Comment: If AID should respond to this recommendation, policy on the extent of technical transfer would no doubt need to be weighed by COMIREX and the appropriate DoD reconnaissance organizations.

3. Scale of the Agency's Effort: There are two types of disasters which the UN Association's report addresses: "slow developing" disasters (e.g., famines) and sudden disasters (e.g., earthquakes or typhoons).

a. With respect to slow developing disasters, the report in several places calls for greater efforts to be made to provide early warning of such disasters. As you are aware, the Agency has in recent years refined methods of crop forecasting, conducted research in long-term

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climatological trends, and is researching means of anticipating food/population crises. Much of this basic research will not be based on highly-classified sources, and probably will be releasable to the public. In general, we believe that the Agency's efforts in these areas are about at the proper level.

b. On sudden disasters, the intelligence problem is less one of predicting than of responding after the fact -- i.e., assessing the damage after a natural disaster has occurred. The Agency in the past has responded to such disasters on an ad hoc basis, and the scale of the response has depended on the importance of the country suffering the disaster as an intelligence target. In the case of last year's earthquake in China, for example, the effort made by the Agency to assess the damage and its economic and political impact was substantial. Considerably smaller efforts have been devoted to assessing damage caused by earthquakes, floods, typhoons or volcanoes in other areas of the world in recent years. The security problem of deciding what types of information can and should be released to a country suffering a natural disaster poses problems that in the past also have been dealt with on an ad hoc basis. Both with respect to the scale of the Agency's response, and the kinds of information that should be declassified, we believe it would be useful to establish contingency guidelines and procedures that would better focus the Agency's response to unexpected natural disasters in the future.

4. Recommendation: That you instruct the DDI to review the state of intelligence research on natural disasters, the adequacy of present intelligence support to US disaster relief efforts, and the problems of releasing classified information on natural disasters in other countries. Further, that you instruct the DDI to report back to you recommending guidelines and procedures that might be established to strengthen the Agency's ability to respond to foreign natural disasters.

APPROVED : Jim Schlesinger concurred in / _____
Director of Central Intelligence

DISAPPROVED: _____ / Stan Turner
Director of Central Intelligence

DATE : 1 SEP 1977

25X

Paul V. Walsh

Attachments: 2
As stated above

Approved For Release 2004/03/15 : CIA-RDP80M00165A002400080002-9

Approved For Release 2004/03/15 : CIA-RDP80M00165A002400080002-9

SUBJECT: Intelligence Support to Natural Disaster Relief

Originator: OGCR [redacted] (19Aug77)
Distribution: (all copies with attachments)
Original - Director
1 - ADDCI
1 - ER
1 - Ch/Ops Center
1 - COMIREX [redacted]
1 - D/NPIC
1 - DDI
1 - DDI Chrono
1 - D/OER
1 - D/OSR
1 - D/OIA
1 - D/OGCR
1 - Ch/GD/OGCR

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ATTACHMENT 2

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Chairman of the Association
William W. Scranton
Chairman, Board of Governors
Robert S. Benjamin
Chairman, Fin. Comm., United Artists Corp.
Chairmen Emeritus
James S. McDonnell
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Vice Chairmen
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Robert F. Wright
Partner—Arthur Andersen & Co.

Governors
Martha M. Aasen
Chairman, Conference of UN Representatives
Morris B. Abram
Partner—Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison
Andrew F. Brimmer
President, Brimmer & Co., Inc.
R. Manning Brown, Jr.
Chairman, N. Y. Life Insurance Co.
Kenneth R. Burrough
President, Texas Division, UNA
Jacob Clayman
Secretary-Treasurer
Industrial Union Department, AFL-CIO
William T. Coleman, Jr.
Partner—O'Melveny & Myers
Gaylord Freeman
Hon. Chrm., First National Bank of Chicago
Arnold Goodman
Chairman, Council of Chapter and Division Presidents, UNA
Dr. Armand Hammer
Chairman, Occidental Petroleum Corp.
Walter E. Hanson
Senior Partner
Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co.
Clarice Kaufman
Attorney—V.P., Pacific Chapter, UNA
Philip Klutznick
Klutznick Investments
Edward Lamb,
President, Lamb Enterprises, Inc.
Estelle Linzer
V. P., Southern N.Y. State Div., UNA
L. F. McCollum
Chairman, Mercantile Texas Corp.
Porter McKeever
Associate, John D. Rockefeller, 3rd
Carmel Carrington Marr
Commissioner, N.Y. State Public Service Commission
William S. Renchard
Chairman, Exec. Comm., Chemical Bank
William Ruder
President, Ruder & Finn, Inc.
Richard J. Schmeelk
General Partner, Salomon Brothers
Joseph M. Segel
Chairman, Presidential Airways

Joe Byrns Sills
Vice President, Chapter, Division and Field Activities

Peggy Sanford Carlin
Vice President, Program Planning and National Organizations

Louis J. Provenzale
Assistant Treasurer and Controller

Richard B. Wiener
Director, Financial Development and Administration

UNA USA

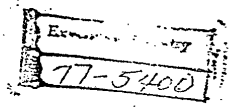
UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA
300 EAST 42nd STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017
Cable Address UNASAMER • (212) 697-3232

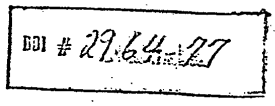
Acting President
Robert M. Ratner

Honorary Co-Chairmen
Arthur J. Goldberg
Henry Cabot Lodge
Anna Lord Strauss
Charles W. Yost

National Chairman, UN Day 1977
(By appointment of The President of the U.S.A.)
Henry Ford II
Chairman, Ford Motor Company

August 2, 1977





NWD
10 Aug

Admiral Stansfield Turner
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C.

Dear Admiral Turner:

Enclosed is a copy of the final report issued by UNA's Policy Panel on International Disaster Relief, as well as a copy of the press release on the Report.

The Panel was chaired by Orville L. Freeman, President of Business International and former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. Other Panel members included George Ball, former Under-Secretary of State; Lester Brown, author of "By Bread Alone;" Senator Hubert Humphrey; David Morse, former head of ILO; Glenn Watts, President of the Communications Workers of America and George Woods, former President of the World Bank.

On Page 4 of the Report is a summary of the major recommendations the Panel directs to various agencies of the UN and the US Government, and to organizations involved in international disaster relief.

I think you will find that these recommendations are, in the main, practical and useful. I would appreciate any comments you might have.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Ratner
Acting President

RMR:mef
Enclosure

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UNA-USA 3 EAST 42nd STREET, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017 (212) OX 7-3232
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PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT:
In New York: Stephen Green (212) 697-3232
Ellie King (212) 697-3232
In Washington, D.C.: Roger Cochetti (202) 547-6645

HOLD FOR RELEASE ON
Thursday August 4, 1977

CITIZENS' PANEL URGES LEGAL PROTECTION FOR VICTIMS OF NATURAL DISASTERS

Also Proposes Creation of UN Disaster Early Warning Unit and Increased Disaster Preparedness Assistance

A panel of distinguished citizens, including former senior UN and US officials, in a comprehensive review of the international disaster relief system, has proposed a series of steps designed to overcome the political and administrative problems which frequently impede relief efforts. Among the proposals are the creation of a disaster early warning unit in the Office of the UN Secretary-General, provision of legal protection to victims of natural disasters by neutral international agencies, conclusion of international agreements specifying the obligations of governments to disaster victims and creation of a special UN fund, administered by the UN Development Program, for disaster preparedness programs in the developing countries.

The panel's 90 page report, published by the United Nations Association, entitled "Acts of Nature, Acts of Man: The Global Response to Natural Disasters," is the result of a year-long study which focused on four major aspects of disaster relief: international coordination, the application of modern technology, preparedness in developing countries and the "politics" of natural disasters.

The panel was chaired by Orville L. Freeman, President of Business International and former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. Other panel members included George Ball, former Under-Secretary of State; Lester Brown, author of "By Bread Alone"; Senator Hubert Humphrey; David Morse, former head of ILO; Glen Watts, President of the Communications Workers of America and George Woods, former President of the World Bank.

The UNA report concludes that political considerations continue to impede many disaster relief operations, in spite of the fact that the UN and Red Cross have designated special units to coordinate and monitor the international movement of relief goods. Among the specific problems with which the report deals are the failure by governments and relief agencies to acknowledge the existence of a disaster, diversion of assistance to groups relatively less needy and the stealing of relief goods and supplies. Such problems tend to emerge more often during slow-developing disasters, such as droughts and epidemics.

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To curb such occurances, the panel recommends 1) the creation of a disaster early warning unit in the Office of the UN Secretary-General, 2) the provision of international legal "protection" to disaster victims by agencies that now monitor conflicts and refugee movements, and ultimately, 3) the establishment of international agreements spelling out the obligations of governments to ensure relief in natural disasters.

A second major conclusion of the panel is that national governments in many disaster-prone developing countries are not prepared to handle the complex logistics and administrative tasks involved in a major natural disaster. Among the reasons for this, the panel maintains, is the lack of emphasis given to disaster preparedness in the programs of major international development assistance agencies, particularly those of the UN. The panel recommends the creation of a special UN fund (administered by the UN Development Program) to handle earmarked funds for this purpose, and urges the US Government to "start the ball rolling" by making new monies available for this purpose.

Other recommendations of the panel include proposals for strengthening the United Nations Disaster Relief Office (UNDRO) and for the increased use of earth-orbiting satellites for communications in disaster operations, and for early warning and damage assessment. The report also urges the establishment of a computerized global food tracking system that would locate and permit the rapid diversion of commercial shipments of grain, to disaster zones where food was critically needed.

Throughout its deliberations the panel has maintained close contact with the agencies to which its recommendations are addressed, and these organizations are expected to be receptive to most of the panel's recommendations. For example, a recent report of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee recommends US action on several of the proposed reforms, notably support for additional assistance to national disaster preparedness programs in developing countries. UNDP is already considering ways in which UN disaster preparedness assistance can be accelerated. Participation in the panel's deliberations by State Department officials has resulted in a State Department action program, soon to be presented to OECD, which includes expanded assistance to national disaster preparedness efforts. The International Committee of the Red Cross is now formally considering the panel's recommendation that ICRC offer its protection services to certain victims of natural disasters. And finally, the ICRC and League of Red Cross Societies are jointly preparing a feasibility study on a new international disaster relief convention, to be presented at the quadrennial International Conference of the Red Cross in Bucharest in October of this year.

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The report is part of the Policy Studies Program of the United Nations Association. Robert V. Roosa, Partner, Brown Brothers Harriman and Co., is Chairman of UNA's Policy Studies Committee. The most recent report issued by the Association was "Controlling the Conventional Arms Race" released in November 1976. UNA is an independent, non-partisan organization which seeks to create an informed and active public opinion in support of constructive US policies in the UN and in other international bodies, and to develop new ideas on how to deal with global problems. Governor William W. Scranton, former US Ambassador to the UN was recently elected Chairman of the Association.

A complete list of panel members follows.

UNA-USA POLICY STUDIES PANEL
ON INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RELIEF

CHAIRMAN:
ORVILLE L. FREEMAN
President, Business International
Formerly, Secretary of Agriculture

GEORGE W. BALL
Senior Partner, Lehman Brothers Incorporated
Formerly, Under-Secretary of State

M. KATHLEEN BELL
US Department of State, Retired

CHRISTINE BESHAR
Partner, Cravath, Swaine and Moore

LESTER BROWN
President, Worldwatch Institute

HERSCHELLE S. CHALLENOR
Staff Consultant to Sub-Committee on International Resources, Food and Energy, US House of Representatives

BERT COWLAN
Consultant, Institute of Public Administration

TOM J. FARER
Professor of Law, Rutgers University
Formerly, Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs

C. CLYDE FERGUSON, JR.
Visiting Professor of Law, Harvard Law School
Formerly, US Representative to the Economic and Social Council of the UN

DAVID P. FORSYTHE
Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Nebraska

*JAMES L. GREENFIELD
Associate Managing Editor, New York Times
Formerly, Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
US Senator

** CHARLES W. MAYNES
Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of International Organization Affairs
Formerly, Secretary and Director, International Organization Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

DAVID A. MORSE
Partner, Surrey, Karasik, Morse and Seham
Formerly, Director-General of the International Labor Organization

JEAN PICKER
Vice Chairman, United Nations Association
US Representative to the UN Commission for Social Development

JOSEPH M. SEGEL
Chairman, Presidential Airways
Board of Governors, UNA-USA

GLEN E. WATTS
President, Communications Workers of America

GEORGE D. WOODS
Director, First Boston, Inc.
Formerly, President, Chairman of the Board, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

---

* Mr. Greenfield served sith the panel and followed its work, but due to the policy of The New York Times, cannot and does not associate himself with the panel's recommendations.

** Mr. Maynes served as a member of the panel until his nomination by the President as the Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of International Organization Affairs. He did not participate in the drafting of the final report.

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ACTS OF NATURE, ACTS OF MAN:

The Global Response to Natural Disasters

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